

CLAIMS

1. A process for producing charcoal, comprising firing a raw material for charcoal placed in a kiln to thermally decompose the raw material for charcoal, characterized in that said process comprises at least a high-temperature refining step of forcibly feeding air into said kiln to keep the temperature within the kiln at 800°C or above.

2. The process for producing charcoal according to claim 1, wherein water vapor is contained in air to be forcibly fed.

3. The process for producing charcoal according to claim 1, wherein the high-temperature refining step is carried out by bringing the temperature within the kiln at 800°C or above and holding this state for 3 hr or more.

4. A charcoal producing apparatus characterized by comprising at least: an in-kiln space for placing therein the raw material for charcoal; a flame port and a vent hole each provided at the front end of the space within the kiln; a smoke discharge opening provided at the rear end of the space within the kiln; and air force feeding means for forcibly feeding air into the space within the kiln.

5. The charcoal producing apparatus according to claim 4, wherein said air force feeding means comprises an air discharge opening provided at the upper part of the space, within the kiln, at a portion near the smoke discharge opening and the air discharge opening comprises a blast pipe provided toward the front end of the space within the kiln.

6. The charcoal producing apparatus according to claim 4, wherein the floor in the space within the kiln is provided so as to incline downward from the front end toward the rear end.

7. The charcoal producing apparatus according to claim 4, wherein the space within the kiln comprises: a divergent part in which the width gradually increases from the flame port toward the center of the space within the kiln; a maximum width part which constitutes an approximate center part of the space within the kiln; and a convergent part in which the width gradually decreases from the maximum width part toward the smoke-discharge opening.

8. The charcoal producing apparatus according to claim 4, wherein the inner wall of the kiln is formed of refractory bricks.